Accordingly, India has requested the Panel to reject the United States' complaint.

Since the panel proceeding has not yet concluded, no plan in this regard to remove import restrictions arises from the dispute with the United States.

अनाजों का कृषिगत उत्पादन

443. **श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:**
श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश से कृषि उत्पादों के निर्यात के संबंध में नीति घोषित करने से पूर्व विश्व के अन्य कृषि आधारित देशों की कृषि उत्पादन दर से भारत की कृषि उत्पादन दर की तुलना की थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन देशों के नाम क्या-क्या है जो कृषि उत्पादों का आयात एवं निर्यात करते है और उनके द्वारा किन-किन उत्पादों का आयात एवं निर्यात किया जाता है तथा उन उत्पादों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं जिनकी प्रत्येक देश में अधिकतम उत्पादन दर है और ऐसी दर क्या-क्या है; और

(ग) भारत में गेहूं, चावल, दलहन, तिलहन, कपास की अधिकतम एवं न्यूनतम उत्पादन दर क्या-क्या है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री राम कृष्ण हेगड़े) : (क) कृषिजन्य उत्पादों के निर्यात की अनुपूर्ति देने में सरकार की नीति मुख्य रूप से भारत की खाद्य सुरक्षा खेती की आय को अधिकतम करने तथा विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करने की चिन्ताओं द्वारा नियन्त्रित होती है।

(ख) सरकार इस सूचना को संकलित नहीं करती है क्योंकि यह सूचना सदस्य देशों द्वारा खाद्य एवं कृषि संगठन को सप्लाई की जाती है, जो कि उसे संकलित एवं प्रकाशित करता है।

(ग) उपज कि. ग्रा. प्रति हैक्टेयर (मुख्य राज्यों में)

वर्ष 1996-97

वस्तु	उच्चतम उपज/राज्य	न्यूनतम उपज/राज्य
गेहूं	4090/पंजाब	1104/हिमाचल प्रदेश
चावल	3397/पंजाब	981/उड़ीसा
दाल	924/उत्तर प्रदेश	342/उड़ीसा
तिलहन (9 तिलहन)	1481/हरियाणा	422/उड़ीसा
रूई	605/मध्य प्रदेश	182/महाराष्ट्र

स्रोत: आर्थिक और सांख्यिकी निदेशालय, कृषि मंत्रालय

Amendment to Patent Law

444. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 23rd March, 1998 urging Government not to buckle under pressure to amend its patent regime and the policy on imposing quantitative restrictions on imports; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken so far to challenge the WTO ruling against India in the patent case?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHAN HEGDE) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India had challenged the findings dated 5th September, 1997 of the WTO panel on India - Patent Protection for pharmaceutical and Agricultural chemical products before the Appellate Body of WTO. Action is now being taken based on the Report of the Appellate Body dated 19th December, 1997 and discussions in the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO.

Impact of decrease in price of rubber

445. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the price of rubber is very low and it affected the rubber growers very badly and the Kerala economy;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to protect the farmers;

(c) whether the STC is not purchasing the rubber; and

(d) if so, the reasons for stopping the purchase of rubber?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHAN HEGDE) (a) to (c) In order to arrest the declining rubber prices and to provide a remunerative price to the rubber growers, Government had instituted a market intervention operation through STC for procurement of 10000 MT of Natural Rubber on Government Account in 1997. STC has purchased 9596 MTs of Natural Rubber as per this direction. With the further decline in prices on Government has this month ordered

procurement of an additional 20000 MT by STC.

(d) Does not arise.

Chinese Trade Centre in India

446. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Chinese Government propose to open a Trade Centre in India;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this respect has been entered into between the two countries; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHAN HEGDE) (a) Yes, Sir. Mme Li Guo Hua, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation, People's Republic of China during her formal call on the Minister for Commerce in December, 1997 indicated that China intended to open a China Trade Centre in India.

(b) and (c) A Centre having the support of Ministry of Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation, People's Republic of China is proposed to be opened by M/s. Jiangsu Overseas Enterprises Corporation, Hongkong, which has registered with the Reserve Bank of India to establish a 'China India Trade Investment Promotion Centre' in India. This Centre intends to provide trade and investment facilitation services to Chinese and Indian enterprises.

Policy commitments of World Trade Agreement

447. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a series of comprehensive changes in our policies and practices/systems in terms of our commitment to be honoured at World Trade Agreement and Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the changes pronounced in Exim Policy;

(c) the details of changes proposed/under consideration for protection for Intellectual Property Rights to create congenial atmosphere for promotion of international trade on sustainable basis; and

(d) by when, the review meeting is to take place and the status of our preparations for the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) (a) to (d) India is fully committed to assert its rights and meet its obligations as per the WTO Agreement. India's Trade Policy was reviewed in the WTO on 16-17 April, 1998, where the steps taken by India to liberalise its trade including removal of import restrictions on 340 tariff lines, were explained to WTO Members. India is availing transition period allowed under the TRIPS Agreement to bring its intellectual property rights regime in conformity with its provisions. India actively participates in all discussions in the WTO where Members' rights and obligations are discussed and, if necessary, reviewed.

Export of indigenous goods

448. DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the items imported by the foreign companies in India on which customs duty has been reduced;

(b) whether as a result thereof the indigenous goods would be available at higher rates than the foreign goods;

(c) whether Government propose to adopt a concrete policy to boost export of indigenous goods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) (a) and (b) The customs duties have been reduced in successive budgets on a large number of items. There is no separate duty rate for foreign companies in India. Therefore, the question of separate list of items imported by foreign companies on which the duty has been reduced does not arise.